

Appl. No. 10/825,773
AMENDMENT FILED CONCOMITANT WITH RCE

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim 1 has been amended to more clearly recite the disclosed invention without incorporating new matter. Support is found on page 5, lines 3-17 and page 8, lines 5-8 of the Specification.

Claims 1-4, 6 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Pfeiffer et al. (US 5,447,102) in view of Kossak (US 3,735,702).

The present invention relates to a printing process, employing a development-on-press type printing plate material and the process is characterized in that the printing plate material is developed on the plate cylinder while printing (supplying a dampening water and printing ink to the printing plate material) to prepare a printing plate on the plate cylinder (see page 5, lines 3-17 and page 8, lines 5-8 of the Specification).

The present invention is distinguished from Pfeiffer et al. in that the process comprises the steps of (a) mounting a printing plate material on the plate cylinder, and (b-1) developing the printing plate material on the plate cylinder by supplying dampening water and printing ink to the first printing

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plate material with the dampening roller and the inking roller to prepare a printing plate for printing. The step (a) means a step mounting the printing plate material carrying no images on the plate cylinder, which is not developed, and the step (b-1) means developing the printing plate material on the plate cylinder by supplying dampening water and printing ink to the printing plate material to prepare a printing plate for printing. There is no disclosure in Pfeiffer et al. of the step (b-1).

The Examiner states on page 2 of the office Action dated July 1, 2005,

"With respect to claims 2 and 6, Pfeiffer et al. teaches a printing process for a printing press having a plate cylinder 11, a blanket cylinder 16, a dampening roller 19 and an inking roller 13, the process comprising the steps of mounting the printing plate material (D) on the plate cylinder, carrying out printing by supplying dampening water and printing ink to the plate (Pfeiffer et al., Fig. 1A, 2 and col. 9, lines 32-44), washing the surface of the blanket cylinder (Pfeiffer et al., col. 10 lines 18-20), dismounting the printing plate and mounting the second printing plate, i.e., replacing the printing plate (Pfeiffer et al., col. 11, lines 13-16) and carrying out printing with the new plate (Pfeiffer et al., col. 11, lines 34-59)."
(Emphasis added)

However, Pfeiffer et al. discloses "the process comprising the steps of mounting the printing plate (D) on the plate cylinder", but does not disclose "the process comprising the

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steps of mounting the printing plate material (D) on the plate cylinder", to which the Examiner refers. In Fig. 1A, and col. 5, line 62 of Pfeiffer et al., Pfeiffer et al. discloses that printing plate D is mounted on the plate cylinder as carried out in a conventional printing process, which is quite different from the process as claimed wherein the printing plate material as recited in claim 1, which is not printing plate, is mounted on the plate cylinder.

The printing plate material as recited in claim 1 is quite different from the printing plate D of Pfeiffer et al.

For easier comprehension, we would like to explain in detail (i) the difference between the printing plate material as recited in claim 1 and printing plate D of Pfeiffer et al., each mounted on the plate cylinder, and (ii) the difference between the printing process as claimed and that of Pfeiffer et al.

(i) Difference between the printing plate material and printing plate D of Pfeiffer et al.

The "printing plate material" as recited in claim 1 is a printing plate precursor for preparing a printing plate, the printing plate precursor having no images to be printed. In the invention, the printing plate material is developed on the plate cylinder after being mounted on the cylinder by being supplying with dampening water and printing ink to prepare a printing plate

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on the plate cylinder. While "printing plate" D of Pfeiffer et al. is a printing plate, which has been prepared before being mounted on the plate cylinder of a press by a conventional plate making method, for example, by developing a printing plate precursor with a specific developer, the printing plate already having images to be printed before being mounted on the plate cylinder.

(ii) Difference between the printing process as claimed and that of Pfeiffer et al.

Ordinarily, a printing plate, which has been obtained by developing an imagewise exposed printing plate precursor with a specific developer is mounted on the plate cylinder of a press, and then printing is carried out supplying dampening water and printing ink to the printing plate, which is a conventional printing process and is the case with Pfeiffer et al. On the other hand, in the claimed process, a printing plate material (precursor) is mounted on the plate cylinder without being developed, then developed by supplying dampening water and printing ink to prepare a printing plate on the plate cylinder, and then printing is carried out further supplying dampening water and printing ink to the resulting printing plate.

In view of the above, the claimed printing process is quite different from a conventional printing process of Pfeiffer et al.

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That is; there is, in the Pfeiffer et al. printing process, no step of developing a printing plate material on the plate cylinder of a printing press to obtain a printing plate for printing.

The Examiner states in the Advisory Action, "Pfeiffer et al. teaches the steps of mounting the printing plate (D) on the plate cylinder which includes or implies the printing plate material (D)." However, Pfeiffer et al. does not disclose the step of mounting the printing plate material as described above, which is a printing plate precursor for preparing a printing plate. However, even if Pfeiffer et al. discloses the steps of mounting the printing plate (D) on the plate cylinder which includes or implies the printing plate material (D), Pfeiffer et al. does not disclose how to prepare a printing plate for printing, much less the step (b-I) as recited instant claim 1 of developing a printing plate material on the plate cylinder to prepare a printing plate for printing. When the Examiner rejects the invention, applicants respectfully require the Examiner to show portions where Pfeiffer et al. discloses the printing plate material (D) as described above, and the step (b-1) as recited instant claim 1.

Kossak only teaches the steps of drying the washed surface cylinder.

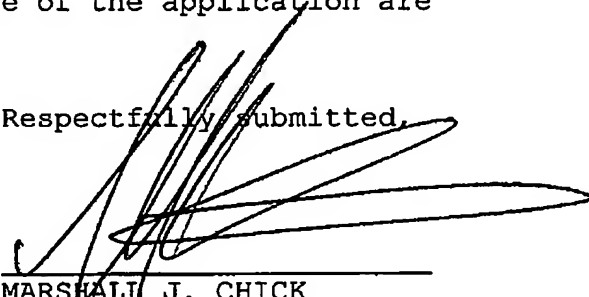
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In view of the above, the claimed invention would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art over Pfeiffer et al. in view of Kossak.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the present invention is not shown or suggested by the cited art. Withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

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